

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 ERDA-05 TRSE-00 XMB-02

FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 /094 W

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R 031900Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3465

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT, US

SUBJECT: US-ITALY BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP (EWG)

REF. (A) EMBASSY'S DS-4 TO EB, DATED 9/30; (B) STATE 218712

1. DURING ECMIN'S OCTOBER 2 CALL ON VARIOUS ENERGY ISSUES, MFA ENERGY COORDINATOR (AND CHIEF, ITALAIAN EWG DELEGATION) MIGLIUOLO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM RE PROMPT, UNALTERED APPROVAL OF ITALIAN NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN WHICH INCLUDES NUCLEAR REACTOR BUILDING PROGRAM DISCUSSED IN EWG. MIGLIUOLO CHARACTERIZED AS BASELESS CRITICISM OF PLAN BY INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION CONFINDUSTRIA AND PRIVATE PETROLEUM COMPANY ASSOCIATION. IN ANY CASE, HE ASSERTED, CONFINDUSTRIA'S POINTS WERE SO INEPTLY PRESENTED DURING PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION DISCUSSION THAT THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO BE HEDED. MIGLIUOLO GIVE NO ESTIMATE OF DATE FOR FINAL PASSAGE.

2. MIGLIUOLO REEMPHASIZED SENSITIVITY OF FINANCIAL FIGURES (REF A) SUBMITTED AS RESULT OF SEPTEMBER 5 EWG MEETING (REF B, PARA 4). MIGLIUOLO NOTED THAT FIGURES WERE STILL PROVISIONAL PENDING FINAL APPROVAL. MIGLIUOLO SUGGESTED THAT FINANCIAL ASPECTS MIGHT BE EVENTUALLY CONSIDERED

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IN MORE RESTRICTED FORMAT THAN FULL EWG.

3. MIGLIUOLO NOTED THAT "SHOPPING LIST" (SUBMITTED REF. A), REPRESENTED FIRST ITALIAN EFFORT. WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHICH, HE SAID THAT NOT ALL ITEMS WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

4. RE TIMING FOR NEXT MEETING, MIGLIUOLO RULED OUT FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER AND SUGGESTED THAT LATE OCTOBER EARLY NOVEMBER DATE BE STUDIED. EMBOFF NOTED IEA GOVERNING BOARD SESSION ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN MID-NOVEMBER AND OPINED THAT THIS MIGHT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS.

5. COMMENT: MIGLIUOLO MAY BE UNDULY OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING CHANCES FOR UNALTERED PASSAGE OF NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN. PLAN HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY ITALIAN ECONOMIC POLITICAL SECTORS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART. SO FAR, NUCLEAR PART OF NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN HAS NOT BEEN TARGET OF SERIOUS CRITICISM; HOWEVER, FATE OF THIS SECTION IS LINKED, AT LEAST IN PART, TO THAT OF ENTIRE PLAN.
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